

BOOK REVIEWS

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ARCHIVES OF FAMILY PRACTICE—Volume 1, 1980—Edited by John P. Geyman, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine. Appleton-Century-Crofts, 292 Madison Avenue, New York City (10017), 1980. 413 pages, \$34.50.

With the publication of *Archives of Family Practice—1980*, John P. Geyman, MD has established himself as the leading editor and compiler of the family practice movement. Since 1974 Dr. Geyman has not only been the editor of *The Journal of Family Practice* but he has also found time to write or edit three previous volumes. The current publication now purports to be the first of an annual series.

Archives of Family Practice—1980 will be of special interest to students, educators, and historians of family practice, but it also affords interesting browsing for the family physician who has an intellectual curiosity regarding the development and changes of his specialty. The current volume encompasses three major subject areas: "Evolution of the Specialty," "Undergraduate Education in Family Practice" and "Clinical Research in Family Practice." Each section contains some 12 to 14 papers published in their entirety and some 20 to 25 papers published in abstract form. Many, but not all, of the papers are preceded by a summary paragraph. In the preface the editor states that "where appropriate" authors have been asked to update their papers with current comments but in the text no indication of possible changes or comments is made. Editorial comment or critique of the papers is also lacking. Such added comments would increase the reader's enjoyment.

The abstracts, credit for some of which the editor attributes to his son, are well done and do present a concise documentation of the essential points made by the article reviewed. They are very readable and informative.

This reviewer found the section "Clinical Research in Family Practice" to be of unusual interest. Papers presented a potpourri of practice problems as seen in the office which emphasizes continuing ambulatory patient care. Statistical analyses are given of presenting complaints, physician-patient interaction and outcome of therapy. Though some of the data presented and conclusions drawn are open to critical review and possibly varying interpretation, the mass and variety of data assembled are impressive. Many areas are opened for further study.

Though *Archives of Family Practice—1980* presents no strictly original material it is an impressive collection, under one cover, of the considerable literature relating to the development and maturation of the changing speci-

ality of family practice. It and subsequent volumes of the series will be of interest to many readers.

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEUROSCIENCE—Volume 4, 1981—Editor: W. Maxwell Cowan, Washington University School of Medicine; Associate Editors: Zach W. Hall, University of California, San Francisco, and Eric R. Kandel, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Annual Reviews, Inc., 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, CA (94306), 1981. 556 pages. \$20.00 (USA). \$21.00 (elsewhere).

This volume is the fourth in the neuroscience series published by Annual Reviews. As was true in previous editions, this volume offers comprehensive reviews which are of interest to practicing physicians, basic neuroscientists and students of the philosophy of science.

For practicing physicians, Elliott Weitzman provides a review of sleep disorders. This chapter alone is worth the price of the volume. It is detailed and extensively referenced and includes guidelines for treatment. Daniel Drachman contributes a chapter on the biology of myasthenia gravis. This section covers the clinical features, pharmacology, cell biology, immunology and therapy of myasthenia gravis. It is the most up-to-date current review of the topic.

For the basic neurobiologist, there are chapters on the enteric nervous system, cytoskeletal elements in neurons and synaptic plasticity. Excellent reviews of the physiology of the calcium channel, the vestibulo-ocular reflex and the use of systems analysis in the study of eye movements are also included. The cellular physiology of β -adrenergic receptor subtypes is extensively reviewed. Neuroembryologists will find interest in the chapters on the development of the neuromuscular junction and on motor neuron sprouting.

For students of the philosophy of science, Roger Sperry provides a provocative introductory essay on the role of science in society. He persuasively argues that science is the best, perhaps only, instrument by which to alleviate the problems which attend modern technological society. The justifications for this view are grounded in the neurobiological concepts of consciousness. Those who seek direction for future scientific endeavor are encouraged to read Sperry's article.

In summary, this volume has appeal to a variety of disciplines and is highly recommended.

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